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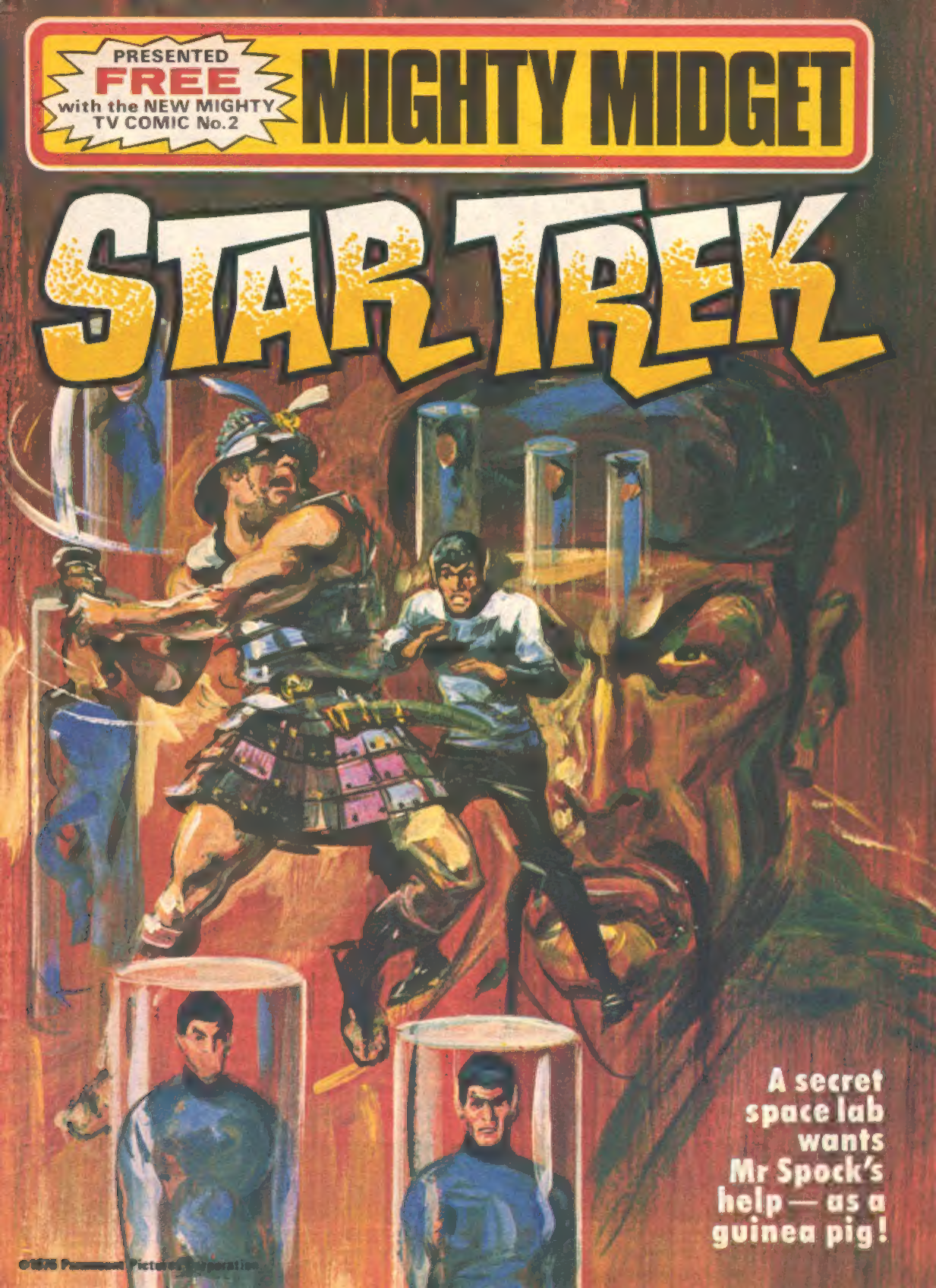
MIGHTY MIDGET

STAR TREK



A secret space lab wants Mr Spock's help — as a guinea pig!

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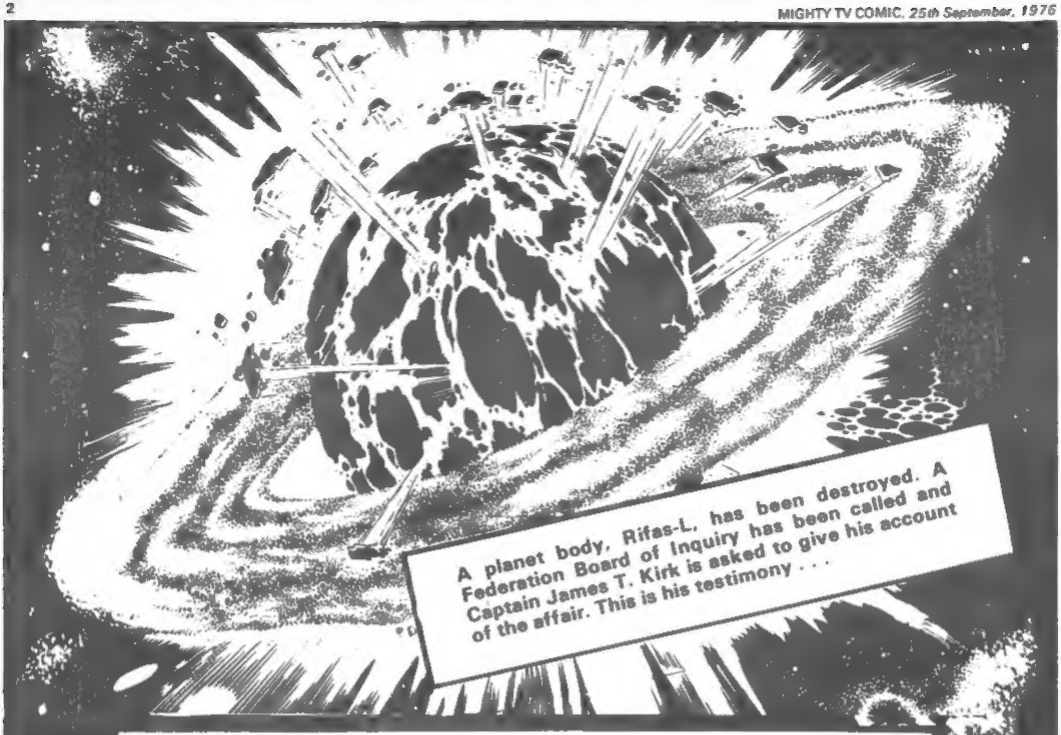

"STARDATE 30-19-12 . . . The Starship Enterprise was on data manoeuvres when we sighted a strange planet. The planet seemed to be part of no system; it had no orbit and moved in a straight line. The landing party I took down included Spock, helmsman Sulu, medical officer Chapel, communications lieutenant Uhuru and security officer Manning.

The planet was one of great beauty. The animals were hostile and we were saved from attack by the inhabitants of the planet. The inhabitants appeared to have a culture similar to that of our own ancient Japanese and were ruled by their leader, Yamoto. It was observed that large numbers of people looked alike. Out of 100 people I saw, only six different faces were in evidence. The one named Oshino acted as our guide and it seemed that Rifas-L was a planet of harmony and perfection. But somewhere in me there was the feeling that something was wrong.

As we continued our investigations, it appeared that the people had no knowledge or memories of their childhood. It was also noted that not a single child was to be seen on Rifas-L. Spock requested that he should go out alone to investigate a building he had seen which had registered strange readings on his tri-corder.

Meanwhile, the rest of the party were being entertained by our friend, Ekoe, who presented us with a model house he had created and asked us if he could leave with us on the Enterprise. At the very moment of his question, a party of warriors called the Collectors arrived to arrest Ekoe and execute him for being the creator of the model straw house. The charge against him being that in order to have a creative instinct he must be a mutant.

Although Federation regulations forbade us to interfere, I felt that this atrocity should be prevented. After a futile attempt to stop the arrest, we were overcome and forced to watch the mass slaughter of people whose only crimes were age, disfigurement or intelligence . . ."

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HORRIBLE, CAPTAIN! SLAUGHTERED -- LIKE THEIR LIVES HAD NO MEANING! NO REALITY!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY, LIEUTENANT!

COME ON -- LET'S GET BACK! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! CAN'T YOU SEE THEY MUST BE DESTROYED? IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

"NOT TOO MUCH LATER, OSHINO CAME TO US, STILL NOT UNDERSTANDING OUR REACTIONS..."
I DO NOT SEE ....YAMOTO HAS TOLD US MUTANTS MUST BE DESTROYED! AND THE ELDERLY!..
..IMPERFECTION DOES NOT BELONG IN A HARMONIOUS GARDEN!
OSHINO, LISTEN TO ME! IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!

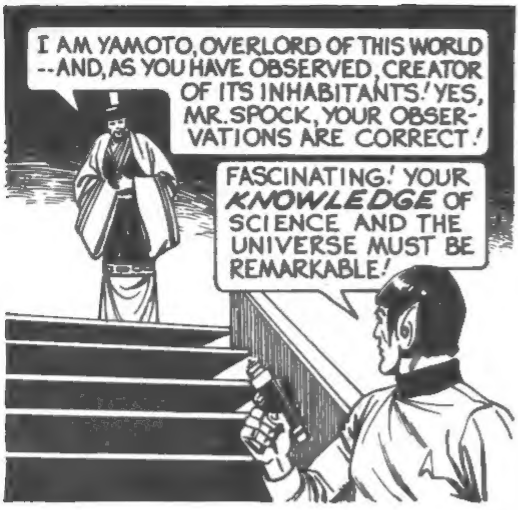
THEY'RE HUMAN BEINGS, NOT PARTS IN A MACHINE YOU DISCARD AND REPLACE WHEN IT GOES WRONG! THEY'RE ALIVE, THEY FEEL!
BUT I--I... OHHH!

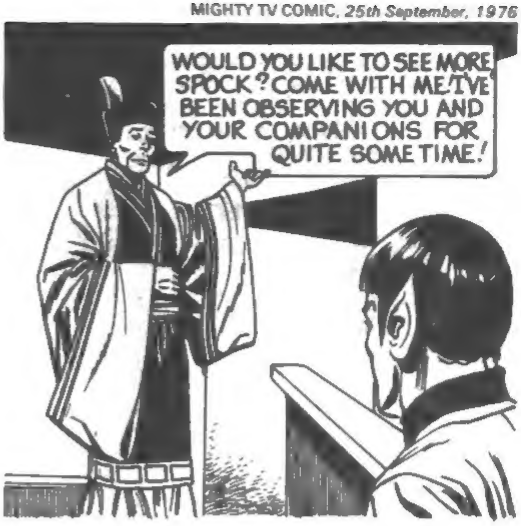
OSHINO, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M "SEEING" AGAIN! THIS TIME I AM RISING UP OUT OF A LAKE ...NO, IT'S LIKE A GREAT VAT! AND A LARGE METAL ARM REACHES DOWN FOR ME!

"BEHIND A FACADE OF UTOPIA NOW FORMED A SINISTER SHADOW OF DOUBT! BUT, BY NOW, MR. SPOCK HAD DISCOVERED AN IMPORTANT KEY!"

INCREDIBLE! THE BIRTHPLACE OF A PEOPLE! A CLONING CHAMBER -- DUPLICATE BEINGS "GROWN" FROM THE CELLS OF A SINGLE BEING! EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET IS A CLONE!

EVERYONE, SPOCK... EXCEPT MYSELF!


I AM YAMOTO, OVERLORD OF THIS WORLD --AND, AS YOU HAVE OBSERVED, CREATOR OF ITS INHABITANTS! YES, MR. SPOCK, YOUR OBSERVATIONS ARE CORRECT!
FASCINATING! YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE AND THE UNIVERSE MUST BE REMARKABLE!


WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE SPOCK? COME WITH ME! I'VE BEEN OBSERVING YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS FOR QUITE SOME TIME!

THESE PASSAGEWAYS -- IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, WE ARE WINDING QUITE DEEP UNDERGROUND!
ASTUTE, MR. SPOCK! WE ARE GOING DEEP UNDERGROUND! YOU SHALL SEE THE ACTUAL NERVE CENTER OF MY LIFE'S GREATEST DREAM!

A DREAM THAT IS NOW A REALITY!
ASTONISHING! I NEVER SUSPECTED THIS IS NOT A PLANET BUT A GIGANTIC STARSHIP! A MAGNIFICENT FEAT OF ENGINEERING! YOU'VE CREATED THIS WHOLE WORLD! WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

THAT IS UNIMPORTANT! HERE I HAVE DONE WHAT NO OTHER PEOPLE HAVE -- ACHIEVED PERFECTION! THREE CLASSES, GENETICALLY "PROGRAMMED" FOR THEIR SEPARATE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS! HARMONY!

HOW LONG HAVE PEOPLE LONGED FOR UTOPIA - PHILOSOPHERS WROTE OF IT, POLITICIANS PROMISED IT, BUT ALL FAILED!
PERHAPS! BUT TELL ME -- YOU USED YOUR CELLS TO CLONE THIRD DAN MALES! HOW DID YOU OBTAIN THE OTHER FIVE?

AH, BUT MR. SPOCK, THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS! FEW DREAMS ARE REALISED WITHOUT SOME SACRIFICES.
UHHHH!
I-I'M PARALYSED!

IN THE PRIMITIVE PAST, SCIENTISTS USED MICE FOR THEIR EXPERIMENTS, BUT NOW....

YOU SHALL PROVIDE A FINE CELL SAMPLE -- FOR A WHOLE NEW STRAIN OF CLONES, THE MOST SUPERIOR ONES YET!

MEANWHILE....
CAPTAIN, LOOK!
STAND WHERE YOU ARE! WE HAVE COME FOR OSHINO -- AND FOR YOU! YOU HAVE PROVED DANGEROUS TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR WORLD! YOU MUST DIE!

EVERYONE, SET PHASERS ON STUN! OSHINO, STAY BEHIND US! ON MY COMMAND, LAY A BLANKET OF FIRE!
PHASERS? WHAT ARE...

FIRE!

KIRK TO SPOCK! COME IN SPOCK! CAN YOU HEAR ME? COME IN SPOCK! IT'S NO USE! HE DOESN'T ANSWER!

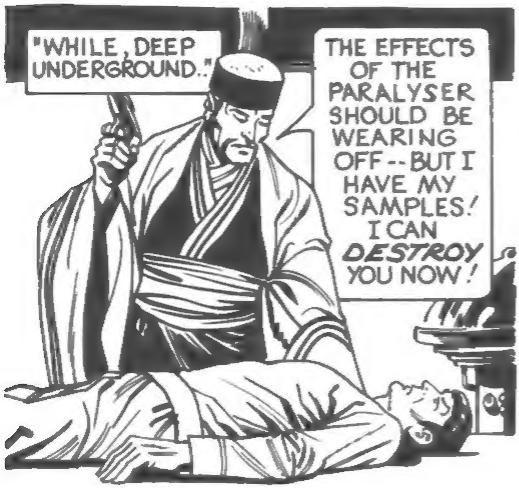
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! SCOTT! HAVE THE TRANSPORTER ROOM STAND BY! WE MAY WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST! WILL EXPLAIN LATER! KIRK OUT!

ALL RIGHT--WHEN WE FIND SPOCK, WE'RE RETURNING TO OUR SHIP! OSHINO, ARE YOU WITH US?
YES, CAPTAIN, I AM WITH YOU!
LET'S GO!

"OUR FIRST THOUGHT WAS TO GET OUT OF THE CITY, HEAD TOWARDS OUR LANDING PLACE, HOPING TO RETRACE SPOCK'S STEPS."
PHASERS ON LOWEST SETTING! WE DON'T WANT TO WEAR THEM DOWN -- JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THOSE BEASTS AT BAY!
CAPTAIN, I THINK I KNOW WHERE SPOCK MIGHT HAVE GONE..

FOLLOW ME! IT'S NOT MUCH FURTHER! IF HE HEADED THIS WAY AT ALL, HE PROBABLY STUMBLED UPON...

... THE PALACE OF LIFE!


"WHILE, DEEP UNDERGROUND.."
THE EFFECTS OF THE PARALYSER SHOULD BE WEARING OFF -- BUT I HAVE MY SAMPLES! I CAN DESTROY YOU NOW!

"SUDDENLY..."
WOO-AH WOO-AH WOO-AH
INTRUDERS!
HE'S DISTRACTED --- MY VULCAN HEALING ABILITIES HAVE OVERCOME THE PARALYSIS! I MUST ACT NOW!

WHA....! WHILE I WAS OCCUPIED, SPOCK SLIPPED AWAY!

BUT HE MUST WAIT--
I MUST ATTEND TO OTHER INTRUDERS IN THE PALACE OF LIFE!

THIS IS A FORBIDDEN DOOR! I FEAR IT---YET I KNOW I MUST PASS THROUGH IT! I MUST SEE WHAT IS BEYOND!
WHATEVER IT IS, YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND IT FAR LESS TERRIFYING THAN YOU HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE! I'M SURE SPOCK MUST HAVE COME THIS WAY!

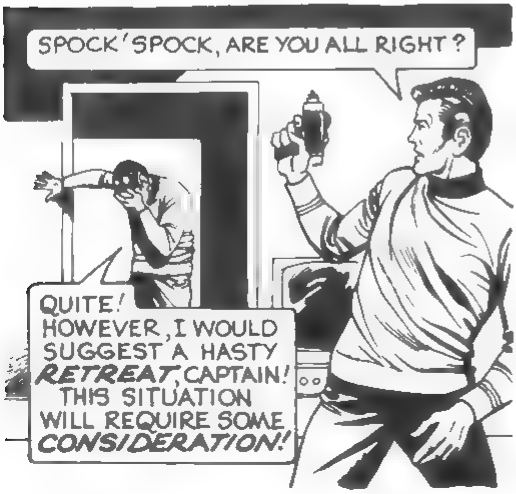
I'M NOT AFRAID OF SHADOWS, CAPTAIN KIRK! I FEEL THAT BURIED DEEP WITHIN ME, I KNOW WHAT IS BEYOND---
--AND THE TERROR IS VERY REAL!

NOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
GOOD HEAVENS! CLONES!
CAPTAIN, THAT MEANS...ALL THE PEOPLE.... EVEN OSHINO..

CAPTAIN! SHE'S BERSERK! SHE'S TEARING THE PLACE APART!
WE'VE GOT BIGGER WORRIES RIGHT NOW! LOOK!

PHASERS ON FULL! DON'T LET THOSE THINGS GET TOO CLOSE! FIRE!
BREEEE-EEEEE!

IT'S ALL BLUFF! THOSE ROBOTS WERE NEVER PREPARED TO HANDLE PHASERS!
HE'S ONLY TOYING WITH US -- WE HAVE TO GET OUT!


SPOCK! SPOCK, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
QUITE! HOWEVER, I WOULD SUGGEST A HASTY RETREAT, CAPTAIN! THIS SITUATION WILL REQUIRE SOME CONSIDERATION!

CAPTAIN! OSHINO JUST GRABBED MY PHASER!
LISTEN! GO! RETURN TO YOUR SHIP! LEAVE! I'LL GO FIND YAMOTO AND DESTROY HIM!

OSHINO, LISTEN TO ME!
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN KIRK! I LIVED MY LIFE THINKING THE UNIVERSE HAD SOME MEANINGFUL DESTINY AWAITING ME ....
..NOW I HAVE LEARNED THAT I AM NOTHING MORE THAN SOMEONE'S LABORATORY EXPERIMENT

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, CAPTAIN-- EXCEPT LEAVE AS SHE ASKED!
Y-YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! IF ONLY .... COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

CAPTAIN! COLLECTORS --THEY'VE BEEN WAITING FOR US!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! SCOTTY, COME IN!
BEEP BEEP BLIP-IP!

LOCK IN ON US, SCOTTY! SIX TO BEAM UP! GET US OUT OF HERE-FAST!
I READ YA, CAPTAIN!

WHA...OUR SWORDS PASS RIGHT THROUGH THEM...
THEY ARE GONE!

CAPTAIN, WHAT WAS GOING ON DOWN THERE?
LIKE I SAID, SCOTTY, I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! CAPTAIN TO BRIDGE! TAKE US OUT OF ORBIT, WARP FACTOR 4!

"THE ENTERPRISE PULLED OUT-I HAD INTENDED TO TAKE THIS SITUATION TO THE FEDERATION FOR CONSIDERATION."

"ONCE AGAIN, WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT FOLLOWED! SPOCK THINKS OSHINO RUSHED IN ON YAMOTO..."
YOU! STOP! YOU ARE IN VIOLATION!
UHHH!

NO! STOP! YOU WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING! A LIFE'S WORK...

YAAAAAHHHHHH!
YOU MADE ME KILL SISTERS AND BROTHERS! YOU CALLED THEM MUTANTS--BUT NOW I AM ONE TOO! A FAULTY PART IN YOUR CREATION!

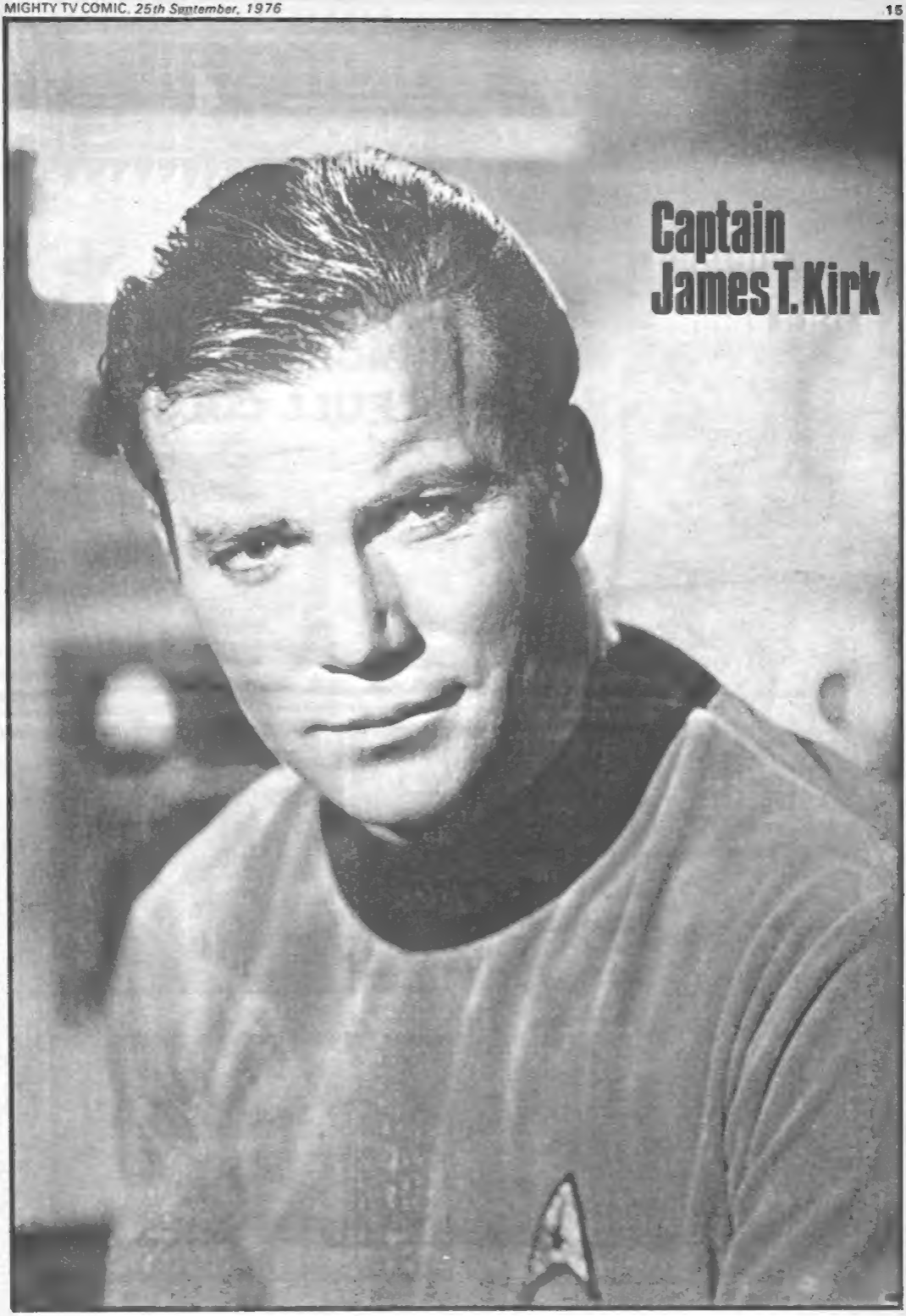
WHAT DID SULU SAY, A UNIVERSE OF GLOWING SPECKS, EACH SPECK A SUN --THOUSANDS OF WORLDS! I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE HAD A DESTINY OUT THERE!
CLICK!

"THAT IS WHAT I KNOW OR HAVE DERIVED FROM KNOWN FACTS. IT IS MY UNWAVERING BELIEF THAT FEDERATION INTERVENTION CANNOT BE BLAMED FOR WHAT HAPPENED!"

WE MAY HAVE BEEN THE VEHICLE, BUT THE PROCESS WAS INEVITABLE!
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN! I AM SURE THE MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD ARE QUITE SATISFIED! YOU ARE DISMISSED!

CAPTAIN KIRK, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS! THE SPACE SCOOPER PICKED IT UP AS IT WAS CLEANING UP RIFAS-L ...
SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST LIKE A STRAW IN A TORNADO! YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, WOULD YOU?
I THINK I CAN ANSWER YOU, SIR!

IT'S QUITE PROBABLY A SEMI-QUADRAINIAL, PSI-SIDED, CONVERTIONAL NOTHING!
THE END


Captain
James T. Kirk

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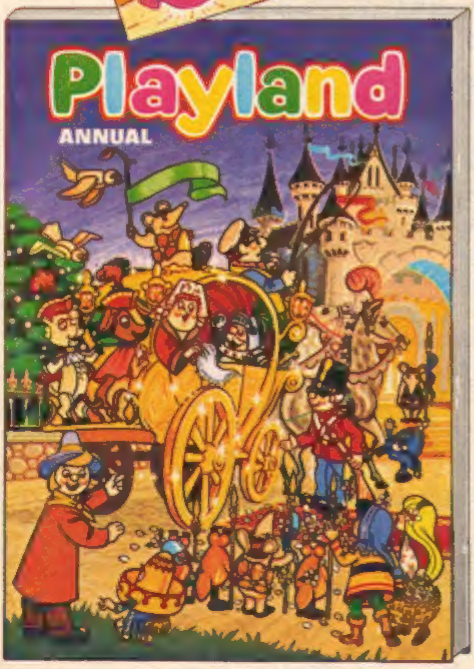

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